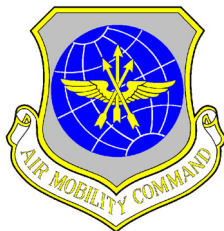


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Medical Command

CHILD SUPERVISION



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFD 40-3, *Family Advocacy Program*. It establishes policies and procedures for identification, reporting and disposition of incidents where children are at risk for neglect, or more specifically, lack of supervision. DODI 6060.3, School-Age Care (SAC) Program, requires that all DOD installations develop a policy that addresses the ages and circumstances under which a child under the age of 12 can be left at home alone without adult supervision. The Youth Supervision Guidelines Chart is modeled after guidelines prepared by major command child and youth specialists.

This instruction applies to all active duty military personnel and their authorized dependents. All personnel on Dover AFB are subject to the laws of the State of Delaware that govern the issue of child neglect. This instruction is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. Family reports are protected by Title 42 U.S.C. 4582 and 21 U.S.C. 1175. Unauthorized disclosure is prohibited.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This is the revision of the 436 DAFBI, dated May 1998. Changes incorporated include revision of requirements for all youth supervision, **2.**; clarification of parent/guardian responsibilities, **4.3.**; and the policies of Child Development Center (CDC), Family Child Care (FCC) Providers and Youth Service organizations, **4.5.**; addition of attachment defining youth supervision requirements.

1. Terms Defined:

1.1. Child: An unmarried person under the age of 18. The term "child" shall include the natural (birth) child, adopted (legally finalized) child, stepchild, foster child, or ward who is a dependent of a military member. The term shall include an individual of any age who is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity and for whom treatment in a military treatment facility has been authorized.

1.2. Child Maltreatment: The physical injury, sexual maltreatment, emotional maltreatment, deprivation of necessities, or other maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 years or an individual of any age who is incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical incapacity. The term encompasses acts and omissions on the part of a person responsible for the child's welfare; i.e., parent, guardian, employee of a residential facility, or any person providing out-of-home care. The definition also includes incidents of child-to-child sexual maltreatment when the alleged offender is in a position of power over the child.

1.3. Child Neglect: A type of child abuse/maltreatment whereby a child is deprived of needed age-appropriate care by act or omission of the child's parent, guardian, caregiver, employee of a residential facility, or staff person providing out-of-home care under circumstances where the child's welfare is harmed or threatened. The term includes, but is not limited to, abandoned children, children who are inadequately supervised either in the home or in a parked vehicle, and any condition affecting the health and welfare of a child as diagnosed by a physician or health care provider. Use guidelines in paragraph 3. to initially assess whether or not a particular case should be investigated for lack of adequate supervision.

1.4. Adequate Supervision: Guidance by an adult which meets basic needs and protects a child on a temporary or permanent basis; may be provided on a temporary basis by a child age 12 or older who is physically and intellectually capable. When supervision is provided by a child age 12 or older, other factors to consider in the "adequacy" of the supervision include: the supervising child's age, number and ages of children being supervised, and the reasonableness of the time (as defined in para 2.6 below) of the temporary supervision.

1.4.1. Lack of Supervision: A type of child neglect characterized by the absence or inattention of the parent, guardian, foster parent or other caretaker that results in injury or serious risk of harm to the child, in the child being unable to care for himself or herself, or an injury or serious threat of injury to another person because the child's behavior was not properly monitored.

1.5. Accessibility of Parent or Responsible Adult: Parents (or responsible adult) are responsible for advising children of their location, and the time when parents will return to the base home. Children should also have emergency telephone numbers, and the number to locate a parent or designated responsible adult.

1.6. Reasonable Period of Time: Subject to specific restrictions in "Youth Supervision Guidelines," factors to consider in assessing the reasonableness of the time frame include location and accessibility of the supervising adult or parent, length of time left alone, time of day, child's level of functioning, maturity, physical and mental health, and handicapping conditions.

2. Requirements:

2.1. See attached table for all youth supervision requirements at Dover AFB.

3. Reporting Procedures:

3.1. Where the concern is lack of supervision of a child, all agencies, departments, or individuals affiliated with Dover AFB will report all incidents to the Security Forces or the Family Advocacy Officer (FAO). During non-duty hours contact the Security Forces Help Desk at Ext. 6666.

4. Responsibilities:

- 4.1. Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors are responsible for identifying and initially assessing reports involving lack of supervision. When deemed necessary, make a referral to the Family Advocacy Officer (FAO).
- 4.2. Security Forces is responsible for immediate response to the scene where a child is allegedly unsupervised and ensuring the child's safety. Security Forces will also attempt to locate sponsor or other responsible adult. On all incidents of suspected child abuse/neglect, Security Forces will notify the FAO, Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), and the member's squadron.
- 4.3. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure children are properly supervised and policies outlined herein are followed. Parents/guardians should take great care to ensure that when children are left with others for the purposes of supervision and protection, that those people are of appropriate age, capable to follow and have knowledge of the policies outlined in this instruction. In other words, the parental/guardian's liability for child neglect/maltreatment is not reduced when the child is left with an alternate caregiver.
- 4.4. The FAO will, when appropriate assess individual cases for neglect and make referrals to the Delaware Department of Family Services and AFOSI. The FAO will coordinate all services, treatment and education resources to prevent future incidents.
- 4.5. It should also be noted that the Child Development Center, Family Child Care Providers, and Youth Service organizations have different child supervision policies for their centers/homes. This OI describes what the family's responsibilities are for child supervision.

SCOTT E. WUESTHOFF, Colonel, USAF
Commander

ATTACHMENT 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

6060.3, *School-Age care (SAC) Program*

AFI 40-301, *Family Advocacy Program*

Title 11 *Delaware Code, Section 1102*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

FAO—Family Advocacy Officer

ATTACHMENT 2

YOUTH SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

NOTE: The ages specified are the maximum ages and are based on the child's ability to demonstrate age-appropriate behavior. Children who do not consistently demonstrate age-appropriate behavior should not be given the same degree of self-management responsibilities. These guidelines are mandated by Dover AFB, therefore, parents are expected to fully comply.

Age of Child	Left Without Sitter In Quarters for Two Hours or Less	Left Without Sitter In Quarters for More Than Two Hours	Left Alone Overnight	Outside Unattended (To Include Playing)	Left In Car Unattended	Child Sit Siblings	Child Sit Others
Newborn Through Age 4	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age 5 Through Age 6	No	No; except at age 6 may walk to and from school	No	Yes; playground or yard with immediate access (visual sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision***	No	No	No
Age 7 Through Age 9	No	No; except may walk to and from school	No	Yes; with access to adult supervision***	No for ages 7 & 8. Yes at age 9; keys removed, handbrake applied; 5 minute max in hot weather, 15 in other weather, adult within sight	No	No

Age 10 Through Age 11	Yes; with ready access (phone number to an adult supervisor) */***	No for 10 yr olds; 11 yr olds only with access to adult assistance for no more than 2 hours	No	Yes	Yes; keys removed and handbrake applied	Yes; 11 yr old or 6 th grade minimum to 2 hours maximum*/**	No
Age 12 Through Age 14	Yes	Yes during daytime hours before curfew; not after curfew	No; children 15 or freshmen in high school may be left alone overnight; with access to adult supervision ; sponsor must be in local area***	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes** 12 yr olds or 7 th grade minimum
Age 15 Through High School Graduation	Yes	Yes	Yes; minors age 16 and older may be left alone for short TDYs or leaves, not to exceed 5 consecutive days. These minors must have some type of adult supervision available to make periodic checks.	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes**

*Home-alone training by Youth Center or other source required

** Red Cross baby-sitting training or equivalent required

*** Adult supervision is defined as someone who has or assumes responsibility for the child, e.g., parent, guardian, care provider, friend